

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Final Office Action mailed January 31, 2006. Claims 9-20 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer due to an election/restriction requirement. Claims 1-8 and 21-32 are pending in this Application. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and Claims 2-8 and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants have amended Claims 1, 21 and 28 to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0034178 by Steven G. Schmidt et al. ("*Schmidt*"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

Schmidt discloses a method and apparatus for recognizing a portion of an address that would be unrecognizable to an intended associated switch or device and manipulating the portion of the of the address to make it recognizable. (Paragraph [0012]). The apparatus and method manipulates a discontinuous address to provide the appearance to the associated device, switch or peripheral, that the address is continuous. (Paragraph [0012]).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for assigning an internal port address to uniquely identify a port associated with a routing processor of a network device associated with, and having a location within, a system, comprising "encapsulating a data frame transmitted through the port with the internal port address."

Applicants respectfully submit that *Schmidt* cannot anticipate rejected Claim 1, because *Schmidt* does not show all the elements of rejected Claim 1. In particular, *Schmidt* fails to teach a method for assigning an internal port address comprising the step of "encapsulating a data frame transmitted through the port with the internal port address" as specifically recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, *Schmidt* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements recited in Claim 1, and therefore, cannot anticipate Claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner reconsider, withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and allow Claim 1.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-8 and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schmidt* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0163555 by Abdella Battou et al. ("*Battou*").

Battou discloses a multi-tiered adaptive control architecture for managing an optical communications network. (Paragraph [0004]).

Claims 21 and 28, as amended, each recites a method for assigning an internal port address to uniquely identify a port associated with a routing processor of a network device associated with, and having a location within, a system, comprising "encapsulating a data frame transmitted through the port with the internal port address."

Applicants respectfully submit that *Schmidt* and *Battou* cannot render obvious Claims 21 and 28, because *Schmidt* and *Battou*, either alone or in combination, fail to show all the elements of rejected Claims 21 and 28. In particular, neither *Schmidt* nor *Battou* teach a method for assigning an internal port address comprising the step of "encapsulating a data frame transmitted through the port with the internal port address" as specifically recited in each of amended Claim 21 and amended Claim 28. As such, *Schmidt* and *Battou* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the elements recited in Claims 21 and 28, and therefore, cannot render obvious Claims 21 and 28.

Given that Claims 2-8 depend from Claim 1, Claims 22-27 depend from Claim 21, and Claims 29-32 depend from Claim 28, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-8, 22-27 and 29-32 are allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner reconsider, withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and allow Claims 2-8 and 21-32.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants enclose an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449, with copies of the references and a check in the amount of \$180.00, for the Examiner's review and consideration.

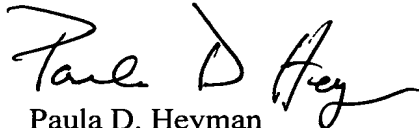
CONCLUSION

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's careful review of the Application. Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 1-8 and 21-32, as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2581.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: Mar. 30, 2006

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Enclosure: 1) Information Disclosure Statement and PTO 1449 form with copies of references and a check in the amount of \$180.